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THE INITIATIVE

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NEW WARRIORS

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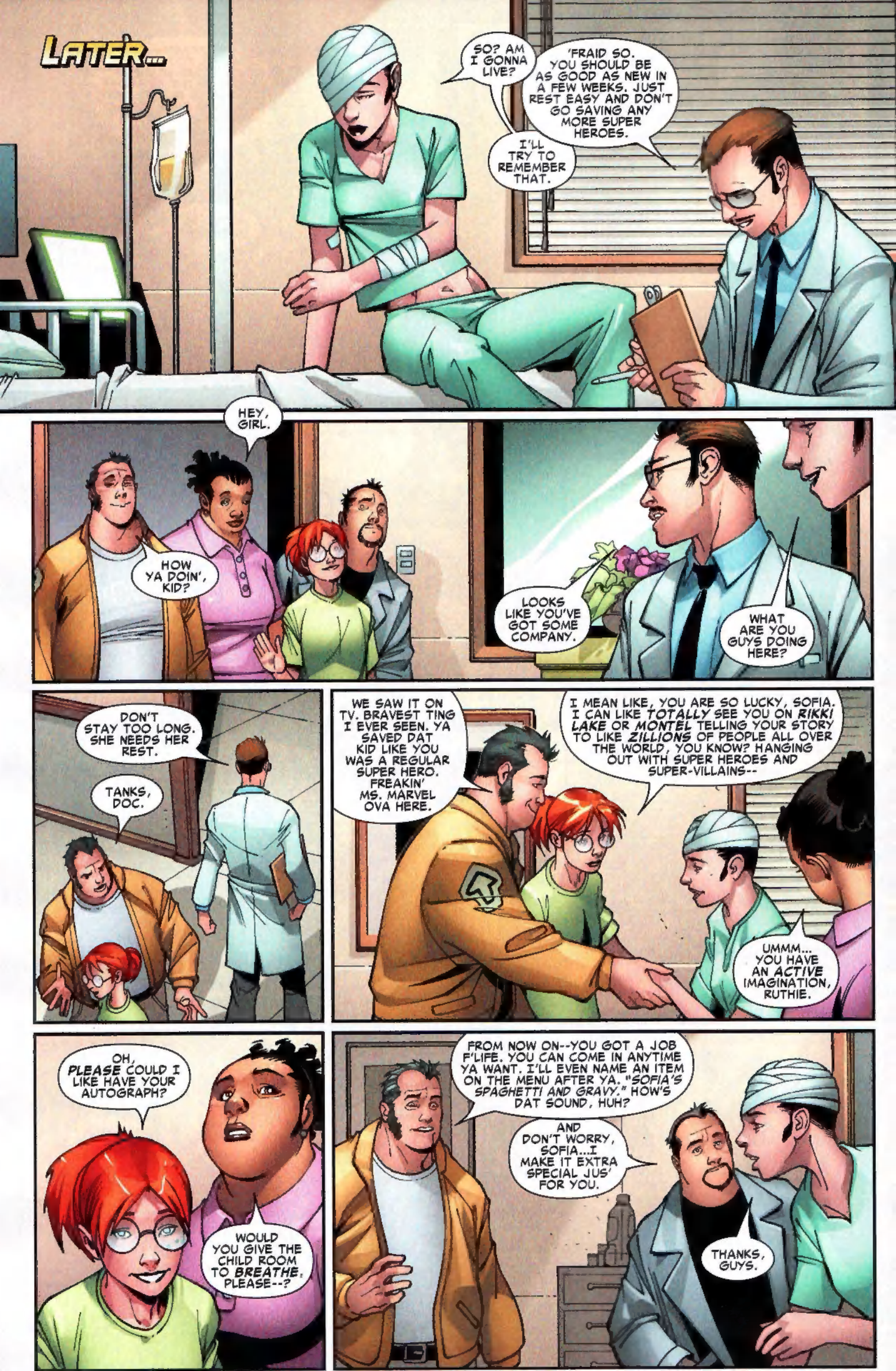
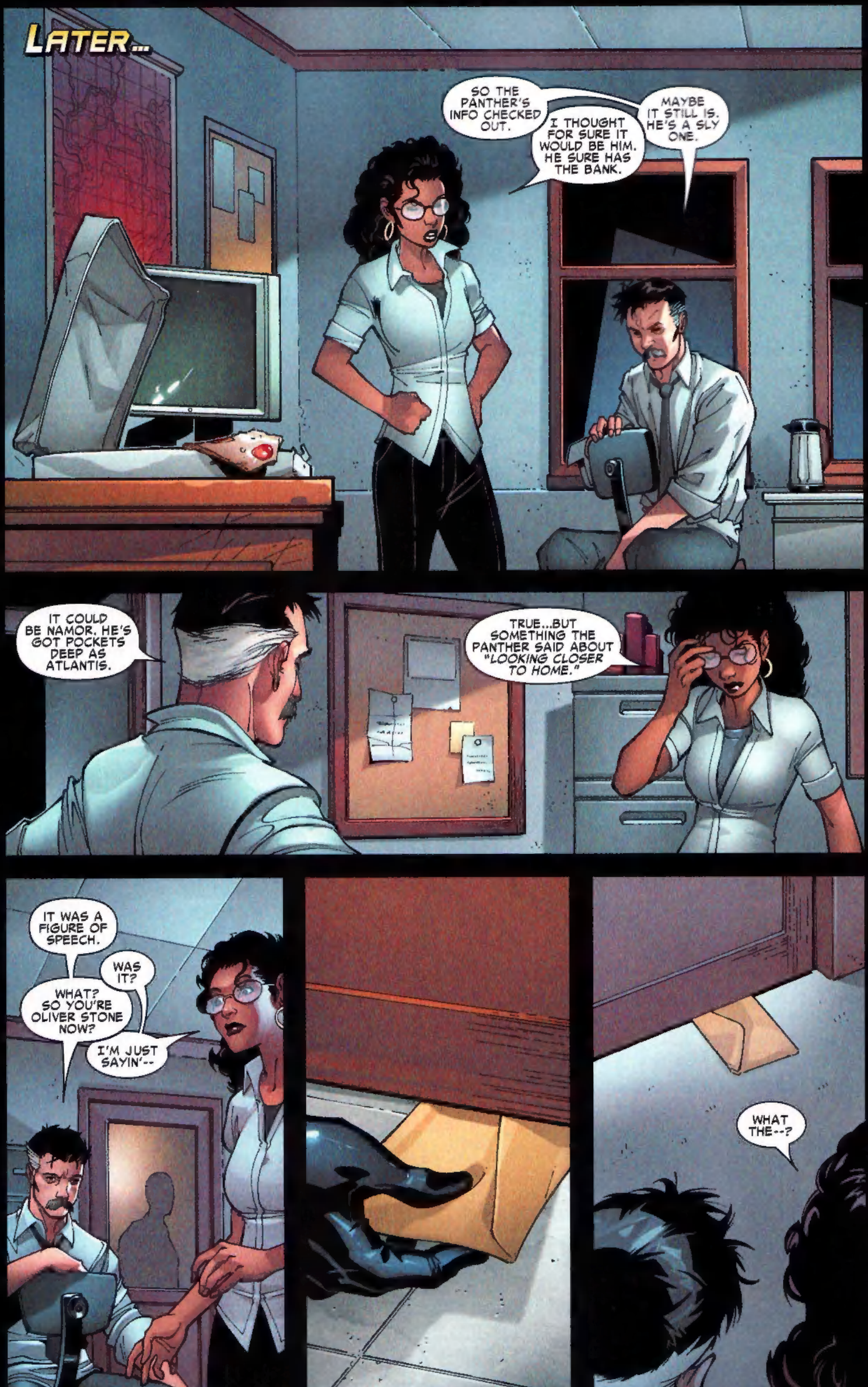
DISBAND THE TEAM?
BUT, I JUST GOT MY REPAIR EFFICIENCY UP TO 80%.
YOU THINK HE'S SERIOUS?
WHAT? YOU GOT WAX IN YOUR EARS? DOG SAID HE WAS DONE. OUTTA HERE LIKE A REINDEER. HIT AND SPLIT LIKE A MODEL KIT. Y'KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?
99
UH, I GUESS. GRACE...WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA, YO. WHY?
UH, REALLY NOT DIGGING THE HIP-HOP WHITE GIRL LINGO.
DISSOLVE THE TEAM? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE QUESTIONING MY COMMITMENT?
I LET THE SCOPE OF THE MISSION CLOUD MY JUDGMENT. AND I REFUSE TO ENDANGER ANY OF YOU ANY LONGER.
21
HOLD UP! WE WERE X-MEN FOR YEARS. WE CAN TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES.
YET, HERE WE ARE. WITH LONGSTRIKE DEAD. AND IF WE CONTINUE, MORE OF YOU COULD FOLLOW.
WAITAMINUTE NOW, THRASH--AH DIDN'T RISK M'NECK FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS SO WE COULD UP'N RUN AT TH'FIRST SIGN O'TROUBLE.
CORNPONE IS RIGHT. I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO QUIT, JUST BECAUSE CHRISTINE GOT GANKED.

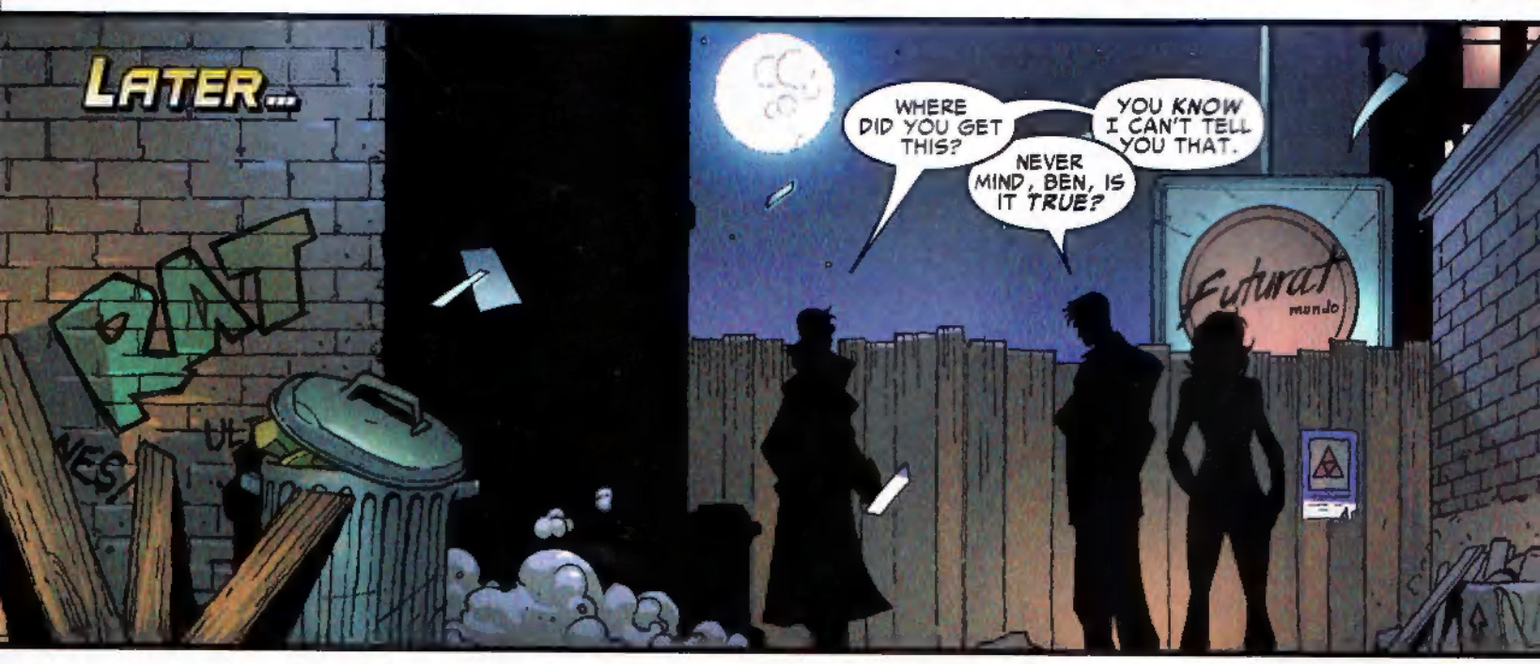
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, RIPCORD. NONE OF YOU DO.
OH, I GET IT...THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY SO YOU TAKE YOUR BALL AND GO HOME, RIGHT?
TOY REBEL.
THRASH-- DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A BIT HASTY, MATE? YOU LOST TEAMMATES BEFORE, BUT YOU CAME BACK T'BUILD THIS SQUAD. YOU'VE DONE GREAT. WHY QUIT NOW?
THIS IS DIFFERENT...
SO THAT'S IT, HUH? JUST LIKE THAT, IT'S OVER?
I KNOW ONE THING, WHOEVER YOU ARE UNDER THAT MASK, YOU'D HAVE NEVER MADE THE X-MEN. 'CAUSE WE DON'T BUCK AND RUN WHEN THINGS GET DEEP.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? I DON'T HAVE ANY PLACE TO GO.
MAYBE WE CAN ALL GET A PLACE TOGETHER?
SHE'D RATHER STAY IN A DOG KENNEL, SHRIMP.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL GIVE YOU EACH A DEBIT CARD LINKED TO YOUR OWN TWO-HUNDRED-GRAND ACCOUNT, FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO GET YOU ON YOUR FEET AND DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.
THAT'LL WORK.
OWWW-!
WHAT'D I SAY??
YOU'LL HAVE IT BY THIS EVENING.


LATER...
SO? AM I GONNA LIVE?
'FRAID SO. YOU SHOULD BE AS GOOD AS NEW IN A FEW WEEKS. JUST REST EASY AND DON'T GO SAVING ANY MORE SUPER HEROES.
I'LL TRY TO REMEMBER THAT.
HEY, GIRL.
HOW YA DOIN', KID?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOME COMPANY.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
DON'T STAY TOO LONG. SHE NEEDS HER REST.
TANKS, DOC.
WE SAW IT ON TV. BRAVEST TING I EVER SEEN. YA SAVED DAT KID LIKE YOU WAS A REGULAR SUPER HERO. FREAKIN' MS. MARVEL OVA HERE.
I MEAN LIKE, YOU ARE SO LUCKY, SOFIA. I CAN LIKE *TOTALLY* SEE YOU ON *RIKKI LAKE* OR *MONTEL* TELLING YOUR STORY TO LIKE *ZILLIONS* OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD, YOU KNOW? HANGING OUT WITH SUPER HEROES AND SUPER-VILLAINS--
UMMM... YOU HAVE AN *ACTIVE* IMAGINATION, RUTHIE.
OH, *PLEASE* COULD I LIKE HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
WOULD YOU GIVE THE CHILD ROOM TO *BREATHE*, PLEASE--?
FROM NOW ON--YOU GOT A JOB F'LIFE. YOU CAN COME IN ANYTIME YA WANT. I'LL EVEN NAME AN ITEM ON THE MENU AFTER YA. "*SOFIA'S SPAGHETTI AND GRAVY.*" HOW'S DAT SOUND, HUH?
AND DON'T WORRY, SOFIA...I MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL JUS' FOR YOU.
THANKS, GUYS.

OKAY, PEOPLE. VISITING HOURS ARE OVER. LET'S GO.
WHY?
HEY-- "LUKE CAGE"-- WE JUS' GOT HERE.
SORRY, SIR, BUT RULES ARE RULES.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS, HUH? YOU GET A LITTLE POWER AND POSITION AND YOU WANNA THROW YOUR WEIGHT AROUND.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING.
WHAT DID YOU SAY? YOU BALD-HEADED STANK BAG O'BONES! YOU AIN'T TOO BIG TA--
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN. I THINK WE, LIKE, BETTER LEAVE BEFORE WE GET BOUNCED OUT ON OUR EARS.
COME BACK TOMORROW.
I'LL TRY. I'M WORKIN' DOUBLE SHIFTS WHILE YOU'RE LAID UP.
DUDE...THOSE WERE MY FRIENDS. VISITING HOURS AREN'T OVER UNTIL TONIGHT. WHAT'S WITH YOU??
WE'VE GOT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
KLIK
OH.


LATER...
SO THE PANTHER'S INFO CHECKED OUT.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE IT WOULD BE HIM. HE SURE HAS THE BANK.
MAYBE IT STILL IS. HE'S A SLY ONE.
IT COULD BE NAMOR. HE'S GOT POCKETS DEEP AS ATLANTIS.
TRUE...BUT SOMETHING THE PANTHER SAID ABOUT "LOOKING CLOSER TO HOME."
IT WAS A FIGURE OF SPEECH.
WAS IT?
WHAT? SO YOU'RE OLIVER STONE NOW?
I'M JUST SAYIN'--
WHAT THE--?

HEY!
BEV--
BEV, C'MERE.
LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT BE GETTIN' PLAYED OURSELVES.
WHAT'VE WE GOT TO LOSE...
NO FREAKIN' WAY...

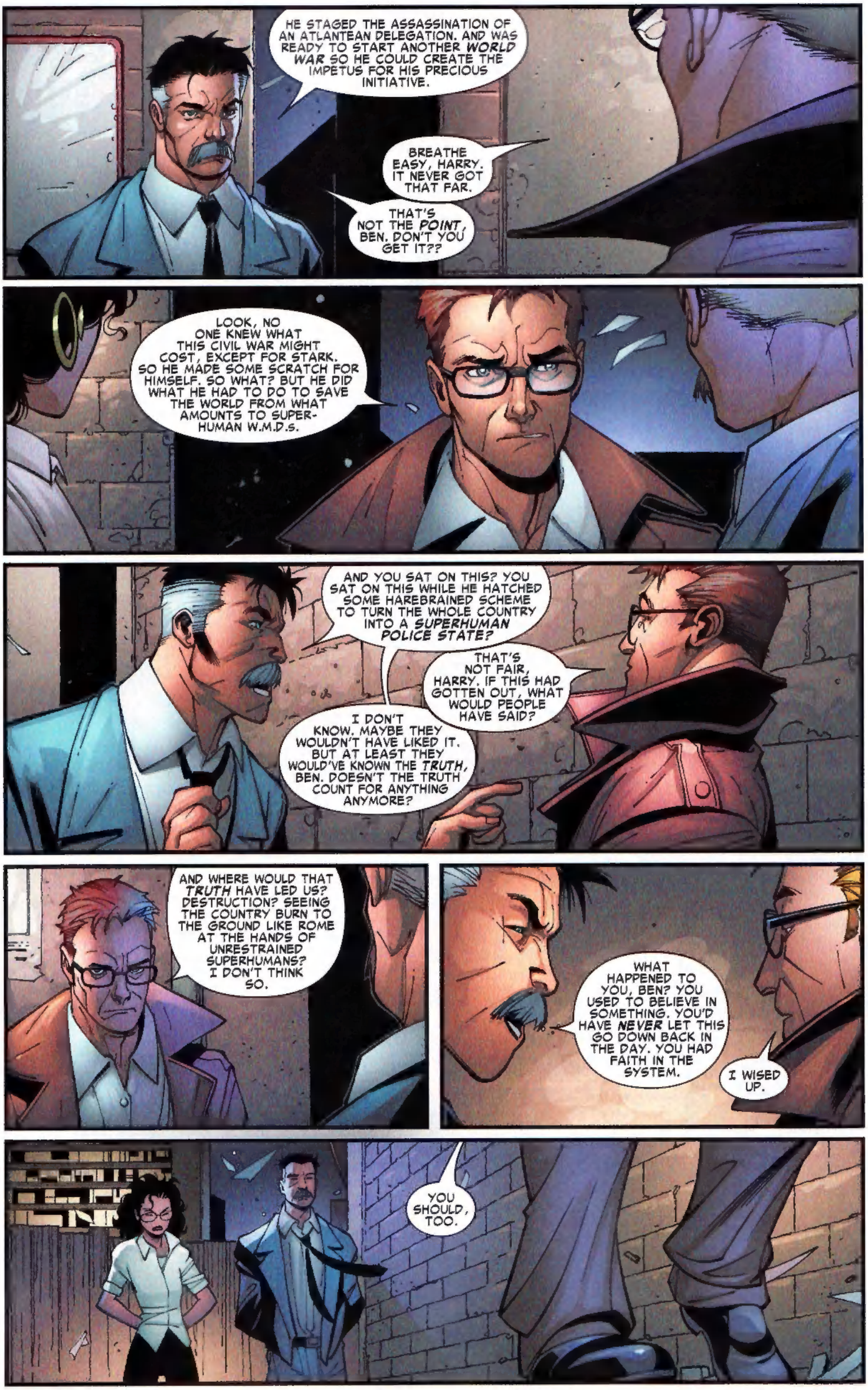

LATER...
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
YOU KNOW I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.
NEVER MIND, BEN, IS IT TRUE?
Futurama

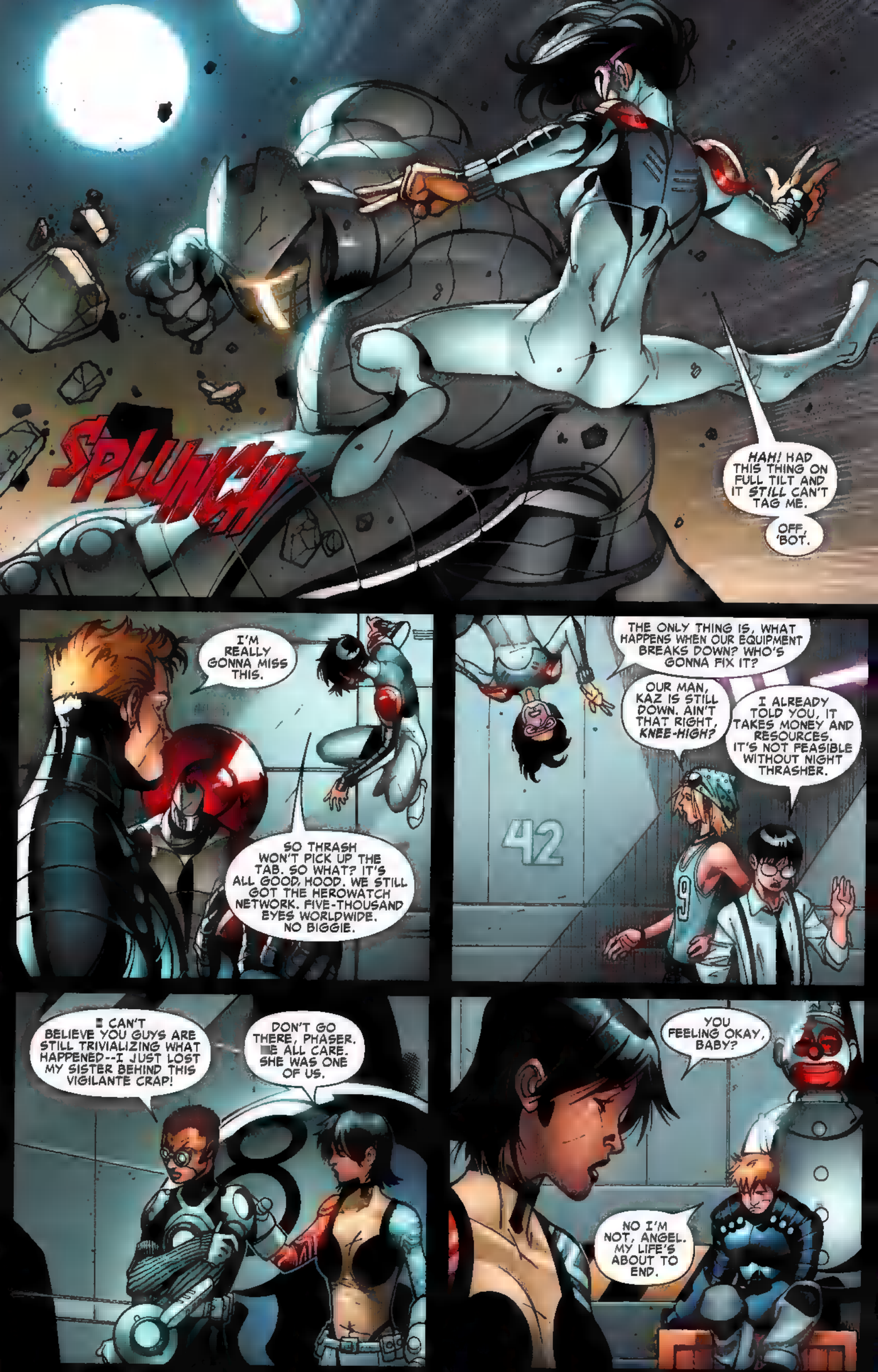
OH, IT'S LIKE THAT, IS IT?
ALL THE DIMES I'VE DROPPED IN YOUR LAP OVER THE YEARS--GIVEN YOU MORE SCOOPS THAN CARVEL'S AND 31 FLAVORS PUT TOGETHER, AND THIS IS HOW YOU DO ME?
AT LEAST TAKE ME TO DINNER BEFORE YOU--
C'MON, HARRY. GIMME A BREAK.

LET'S GO, SYKES.
WE'RE JUST GONNA LEAVE?
AIN'T NOTHING HERE.

IT ISN'T THAT SIMPLE, HARRY.

IS THIS OFF THE RECORD?
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
YOU EVER READ MACHIAVELLI?
TELL ME SOMETHIN' ELSE, BEN. I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT--
LOOK, IF YOU WANT FAIRY TALES, GO READ MOTHER GOOSE. YOU WANT TRUTH, THAT'S WHAT I'M GIVING YOU. BLACK COFFEE. NO SUGAR, NO CREAM.
OKAY FINE. SO WHY WOULD STARK BACK THE NEW WARRIORS?
I'M NOT SAYING HE IS.
BUT YOU DIDN'T DENY IT.
IT ALL MAKES SENSE...
...A HERO WHO CAN CREATE HIS OWN VILLAINS, STAYS A HERO FOR LIFE.


HE STAGED THE ASSASSINATION OF AN ATLANTEAN DELEGATION. AND WAS READY TO START ANOTHER WORLD WAR SO HE COULD CREATE THE IMPETUS FOR HIS PRECIOUS INITIATIVE.
BREATHE EASY, HARRY. IT NEVER GOT THAT FAR.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT, BEN. DON'T YOU GET IT??
LOOK, NO ONE KNEW WHAT THIS CIVIL WAR MIGHT COST, EXCEPT FOR STARK. SO HE MADE SOME SCRATCH FOR HIMSELF. SO WHAT? BUT HE DID WHAT HE HAD TO DO TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM WHAT AMOUNTS TO SUPER-HUMAN W.M.D.s.
AND YOU SAT ON THIS? YOU SAT ON THIS WHILE HE HATCHED SOME HAREBRAINED SCHEME TO TURN THE WHOLE COUNTRY INTO A SUPERHUMAN POLICE STATE?
THAT'S NOT FAIR, HARRY. IF THIS HAD GOTTEN OUT, WHAT WOULD PEOPLE HAVE SAID?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE THEY WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED IT. BUT AT LEAST THEY WOULD'VE KNOWN THE TRUTH, BEN. DOESN'T THE TRUTH COUNT FOR ANYTHING ANYMORE?
AND WHERE WOULD THAT TRUTH HAVE LED US? DESTRUCTION? SEEING THE COUNTRY BURN TO THE GROUND LIKE ROME AT THE HANDS OF UNRESTRAINED SUPERHUMANS? I DON'T THINK SO.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, BEN? YOU USED TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING. YOU'D HAVE NEVER LET THIS GO DOWN BACK IN THE DAY. YOU HAD FAITH IN THE SYSTEM.
I WISED UP.
YOU SHOULD, TOO.


SPLUNCH
HAH! HAD THIS THING ON FULL TILT AND IT STILL CAN'T TAG ME.
OFF, 'BOT.
I'M REALLY GONNA MISS THIS.
SO THRASH WON'T PICK UP THE TAB. SO WHAT? IT'S ALL GOOD, HOOD. WE STILL GOT THE HEROWATCH NETWORK. FIVE-THOUSAND EYES WORLDWIDE. NO BIGGIE.
THE ONLY THING IS, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN OUR EQUIPMENT BREAKS DOWN? WHO'S GONNA FIX IT?
OUR MAN, KAZ IS STILL DOWN. AIN'T THAT RIGHT, KNEE-HIGH?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, IT TAKES MONEY AND RESOURCES. IT'S NOT FEASIBLE WITHOUT NIGHT THRASHER.
42
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS ARE STILL TRIVIALIZING WHAT HAPPENED--I JUST LOST MY SISTER BEHIND THIS VIGILANTE CRAP!
DON'T GO THERE, PHASER. WE ALL CARE. SHE WAS ONE OF US.
YOU FEELING OKAY, BABY?
NO I'M NOT, ANGEL. MY LIFE'S ABOUT TO END.

WE HAVE EACH OTHER.
AND THAT'S GOOD, HONEY. BUT I DON'T WANT OUR KIDS TO GROW UP IN THE UNITED STATES OF "STARK ENTERPRISES."
Y'MIGHT AS WELL LET IT GO, BARRY. THRASH HAS A SKULL THICK AS TREE BARK.
THIS DOESN'T BOTHER YOU? WHERE ARE YOU GONNA GO? WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
DON'T KNOW. BACK TA ARKANSAS, AH RECKON. TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND BUYS A WHOLE LOTTA DISTANCE FROM TONY STARK AND SUPER-VILLAINS.
I WONDER WHERE JUBILEE IS.
SHE BAILED. GOT OUT BEFORE SHE GOT GOT. ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
I'M NOT BUYIN' IT. SHE WAS MORE COMMITTED THAN ANY OF US.
WHERE'S JUBILEE?
NO NEED TO MAKE THIS HARDER THAN IT IS.
LIKE I PROMISED--

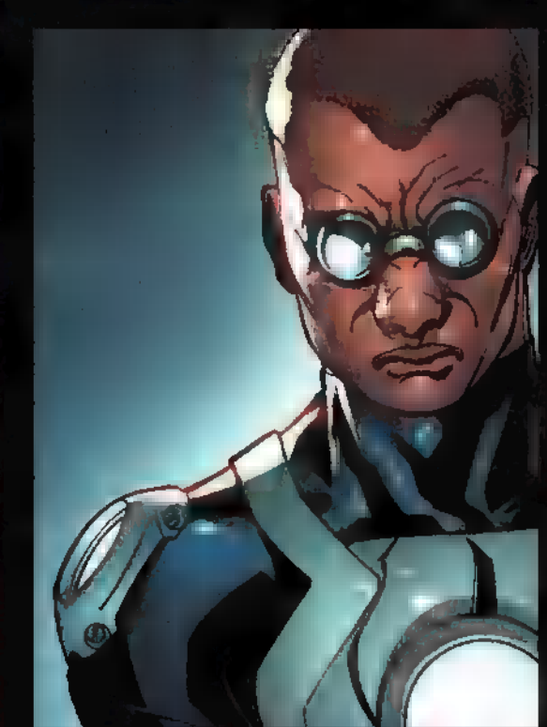
--FOR YOUR TIME.
YOU DON'T HAVE T'DO THIS, MATE. LONGSTRIKE'S DEATH WAS NOT YOUR FAULT.
I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND. TAKE YOUR MONEY AND BE ON YOUR WAY.
YOU'RE MORE STUBBORN THAN I AM--
SOFIA--
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WE THOUGHT THAT--
DOCTORS SAY I'M FINE. NOTHING A BAND-AID, A CHEESEBURGER AND A PINT OF ICE CREAM COULDN'T CURE.
I HEAR YOU'RE CLOSIN' UP SHOP.
I HEAR YOU.
BUT, I KNEW A GUY WHO ONCE TOLD ME THAT FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.
I KNEW A GUY WHO MIGHT'VE HAD SOME HURT, BUT TRIED TO MAKE AMENDS, EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW HE HAD AN UPHILL CLIMB.
THIS GUY... HE PULLED ME IN. IT MIGHT'VE TAKEN SOME TIME, BUT HE OPENED MY EYES...MADE ME UNDERSTAND.

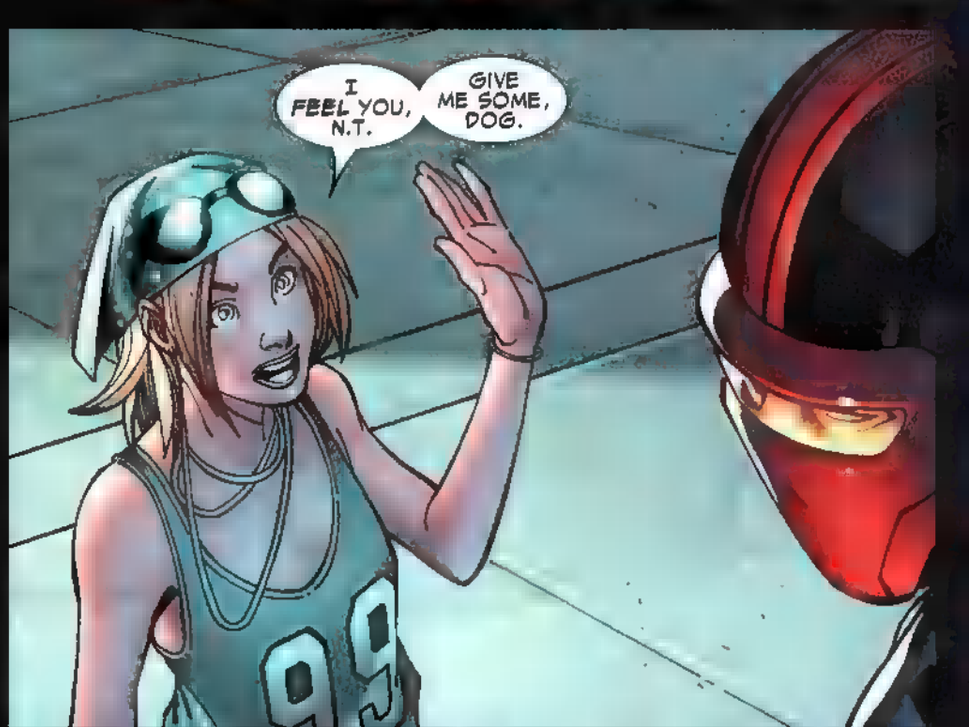
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS, SOFIA.
WHO SAID I WAS TALKING *JUST* TO YOU?
THE *FIRST* TIME WAS WITH MY *MOTHER*. IT WAS JUST [illegible] AND I UNTIL SHE *LEFT* TO BE WITH GOD.
THEN CAME THE *WINDS*. POPPY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T BLAME HIM. NEITHER DID I, REALLY. BUT HE COULDN'T *HANDLE* IT.
FINALLY, IT WAS THE INSTITUTE'S TURN. BUT WHEN WE *LOST* OUR POWERS...I NO LONGER BELONGED THERE EITHER. THE SCHOOL BECAME A MEMORY.
FAMILIES ARE HARD TO COME BY...
...DON'T MAKE ME GO THROUGH IT AGAIN.

YOU HEAR THAT, BIG MAN? THAT WAS REAL.
NOW, IF YOU WANT TO QUIT--PEACE. DON'T LET THE DOOR HIT YOU ON THE WAY OUT. BUT I DIDN'T JOIN THIS GROUP JUST FOR THE POWERS, OR BECAUSE I HAD NOTHING ELSE GOING ON IN MY LIFE.
SHOOT--AH DID IT FOR THE POWERS. AIN'T GONNA LIE--
QUIET, SKYBOLT.
I JOINED THIS GROUP FOR THE CAMARADERIE. THE SAME SENSE OF TEAM AND FAMILY WE HAD AT THE MANSION. THAT DOESN'T STOP JUST BECAUSE WE LOST OUR POWERS.
SO, IF YOU WANT OUT--YOU CAN TAKE YOUR WONDER GLOVES, YOUR WEB SHOOTERS, YOUR TURBO SUIT, YOUR FAKE PYM PARTICLES AND ALL THE REST OF THE TECH YOU'VE COMMANDEERED. IT'S YOURS.
'CAUSE THIS THING WE'VE GOT GOING HERE...IS GOOD. AND IT GOES ON WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.
YOU'LL NEVER SURVIVE.
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH WORSE.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO HONOR THE NEW WARRIORS--BRING BACK THEIR GOOD NAME, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD--LEAD US. LEAD US OR GET THE HELL OUT OF OUR WAY.
DAAAYYUUMM...
...I BET YOU HEARD THAT.

ALRIGHT-- WE LIVE ON... AND FIGHT.
BUT NO MORE GAMES. I WANT EACH OF YOU TO GIVE ME ALL YOU'VE GOT. AND WHEN YOU CAN'T GO ON -- WHEN YOUR TEETH HURT, YOUR NOSE BLEEDS AND YOUR BONES ACHE--YOU BETTER DOUBLE YOUR EFFORTS.
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?

YESS!
WHOO-HOO!
HEY-HEY!




I FEEL YOU, N.T.
GIVE ME SOME, DOG.

S'WHAT? YOU GONNA LEAVE ME HANGIN'?
THAT'S COLD.
I'M ANGEL, SOFIA.
I SEE HOUSE OF M'S BEEN GOOD.
YOU LOST ALL THAT JUNK IN YOUR TRUNK.
HEY NOW--
CHRISTIAN CORD. PHASER.
YOU'RE JONO, JONOTHAN STARSMORE.
MIRANDA LEEVALD, STACY X. I GO BY RIPCORD NOW.
GUESS I'M HARD T'FORGET. MY CHAMBER DAYS MIGHT BE OVER, BUT THEY CALL ME DECIBEL NOW.
SKYBOLT, SWEET PEA. YOU USED TO KNOW ME AS VIN STEWART, REDNECK.

NO MATTER HOW THINGS CHANGE...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, BIG BOY?
IN DUE TIME.

RIGHT NOW, I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU DON'T EVER HAVE TO BE ALONE AGAIN. NONE OF YOU.
I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU. IT'S NOT EASY, BUT THAT'S THE PRICE OF FREEDOM.
I KNOW.
THAT'S HOW WE ROLL, RIGHT?
PHAS-- CHRISTIAN--
ABOUT CHRISTINE--NOTHING I DO OR SAY CAN EVER BRING HER BACK. BUT IF YOU STAND WITH US, YOU WILL NEVER REGRET IT.
YOU'RE A GOOD SOLDIER, AND I'D HATE TO LOSE YOU.
THE NEW WARRIORS ARE HERE TO STAY.

LATER...
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, A STOOL PIGEON, A LITTLE IRON BIRD--WHAT DIFF'RENCE DOES IT MAKE? JUST TELL ME WHY?
TONY, WHAT IS IT?
THIS FILE-- THEY THINK I'M SECRETLY FUNDING THE NEW WARRIORS.
WHAT?
WE GOT THE WORD, STARK. PULLING STRINGS [illegible] THE CURTAIN LIKE A TIN-PLATED GEPPETTO.
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE IN THE WORLD, STARK--BUT WHEN YOU TAKE ME FROM REAL CRIMES TO DEAL WITH YOUR MANDARIN MASTERMIND MUMBO JUMBO, IT'S GONNA [illegible] YOU AN' [illegible] THROWIN' HANDS LIKE A COUPLE GUYS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
DETECTIVES, I CAN ASSURE YOU NOT A WORD OF THIS [illegible] TRUE.
UH-HUH...
SO LET'S SAY I BELIEVE YOU...WOULD YOU TELL US IF IT WERE?

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, STARK. YOU FAKED US LIKE A GUCCI BAG IN CHINATOWN. [redacted] THOUGHT YOU CARED. THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY TRYING TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE HERE. BUT WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO IT, YOU WERE JUST ANOTHER FAT CAT WITH A SILVER STICK IN YOUR MOUTH WHO MANIPULATED THE SYSTEM TO SERVE YOUR OWN ENDS.
NOW WAITAMINUTE--
LOOK...YOU WANNA PLAY CHESS WITH THE TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS, HAVE AT IT. BUT WE'RE POLICE. DON'T TAKE US AWAY FROM DOING OUR JOBS TO [redacted] YOUR PERSONAL LACKEYS. WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR THE STOMACH.
TONY...
DID YOU--?
CAROL-- YOU KNOW ME.
I DO...

...THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING, TONY.
CLICK

TO BE CONTINUED...

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

COMIC BOOK WRITER BRIAN REED

MARVEL: *So, first things first: are you a Skrull?*

BRIAN REED: If you love what I've been writing, then no, I'm not a Skrull. If you don't love it, then your excuse is that I'm a low-down dirty Skrull.

MARVEL: *You've been working on NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI with Bendis, so is it safe to say you do know who is a Skrull?*

BRIAN REED: I know Bendis likes to paint his head green and run around in a Super Skrull costume, including a big foam Thing fist.

MARVEL: *With the recent announcement of SECRET INVASION: THE INFILTRATION, it looks like a number of books you work on are laying the groundwork for the invasion; both Marvels -- Captain and Ms. Any reason why the Skrulls seem to be targeting these two?*

BRIAN REED: Oh, there are all kinds of reasons the Skrulls would be interested in each of them. She's in charge of the Mighty Avengers-- Earth's greatest super team. He's pretty much single-handedly responsible for undoing the Skrulls' entire plan in the Kree/Skrull war. Because of that interest, both the Marvels are key players in the Secret Invasion.

MARVEL: *Captain Marvel's return is not exactly what it seemed. You've said he is going to die, it's just a matter of if he will die here or get back to his own time. What dangers lie in him dying now?*

BRIAN REED: All of time and space collapsing around your ears, which makes a heck of a lot of noise, and tends to result in mass death and destruction.

MARVEL: *Is that part of the Skrulls' plan?*

BRIAN REED: Death and destruction? You bet.

MARVEL: *Ms. Marvel's leading the greatest team in the Initiative right now, the Mighty Avengers, in addition to her own team. Surely SHE'S not a Skrull, is she?*

BRIAN REED: A shameless plug now as I mention that the last page of *Ms. Marvel #24* (and issues #25-27) will answer that question for you.

MARVEL: *What about the members of her new team? They seemed to come at a rather convenient time, didn't they?*

BRIAN REED: Machine Man would say something rude if he were here.

MARVEL: *Will the Captain and Carol meet up, since you write both?*

BRIAN REED: Yep. She's in the pages of the Captain Marvel mini-series.

MARVEL: *And what of Mar-Vell's son, Teddy "Hulkling" Altman? Will he meet his father? There must be some serious ramifications to that?*

BRIAN REED: *Young Avengers Presents #2* is all about the moment that Teddy meets the father he thought was dead, and Captain Marvel gets to decide if he believes Teddy is really his son or not. Mar-Vell's been out of circulation for a few years, so it really is a bit of a shock for him to have this kid show up, and know intimate details about Mar-Vell's... intimate details.

MARVEL: *Finally, give us a tease here -- we know that Bendis has been planning this story for 5 years, and that other writers have been in on it for a while now too. Are any of the characters you have written in the past year, or are currently writing, Skrulls?*

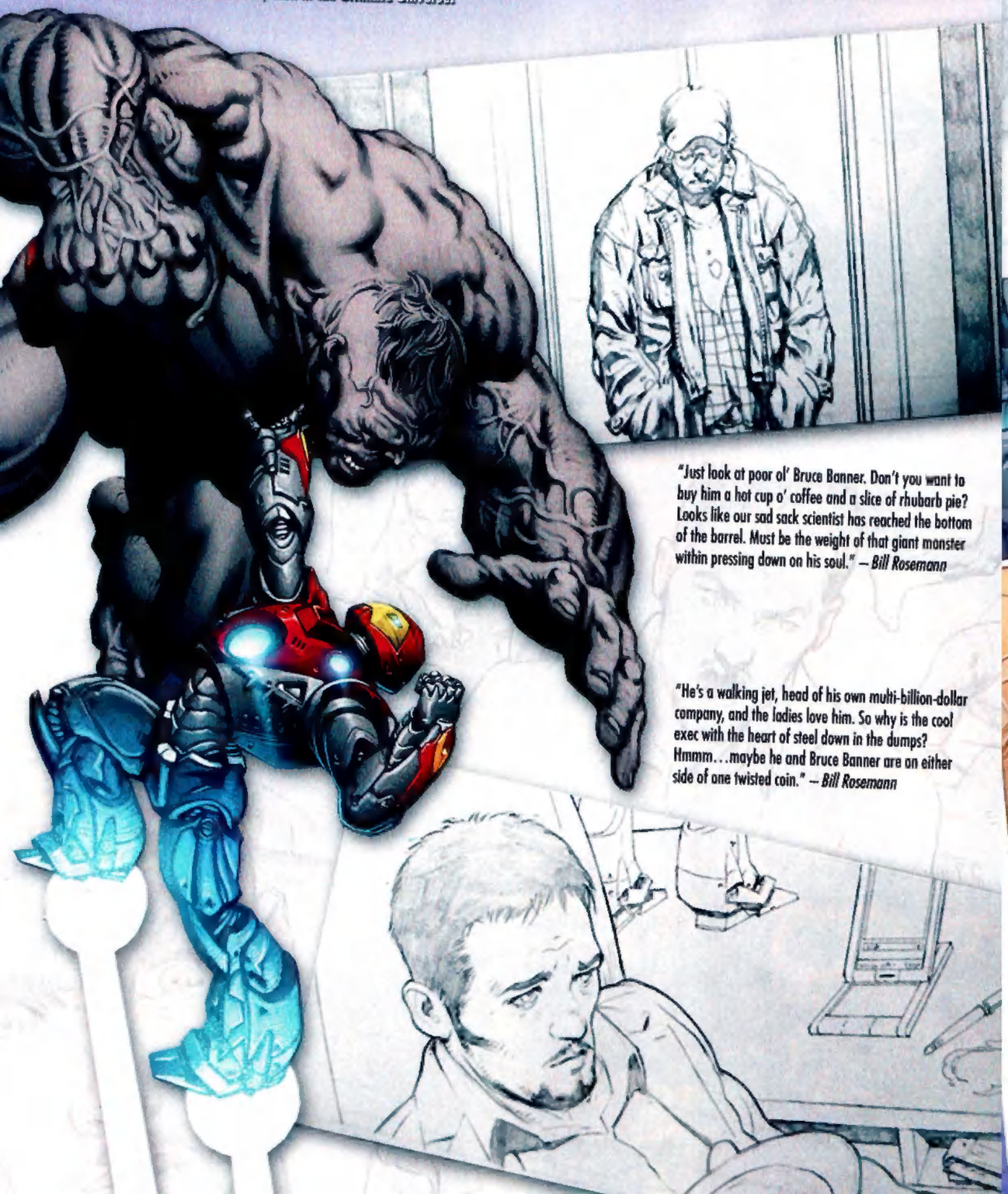
BRIAN REED: Three of the characters I've worked with in the past year are really Skrulls. I think all three of them will come as total surprises, but I've tried to lay groundwork with each of them that keeps the reveals from being "cheap." The real surprise is that I reveal someone is actually a Kree! While the rest of Marvel goes one way, I run the other!

'Nuff Said!

PORTFOLIO REVIEW

What happens when you get better after having a nuclear bomb dropped on you? If you're the Hulk, you go smash the person responsible: Tony Stark. From the mind of writer Warren Ellis and brought to powerful life by Cary Nord, comes the fight of the century, Ultimate Iron Man vs. Ultimate Hulk locked in a battle of wills...and fists... as they find who is the ULTIMATE HUMAN.

We sat down with artist Cary Nord and editor Bill Rosemann to get their take on the players involved and what it takes to bring together the two most powerful, and misunderstood, men in the Ultimate Universe!



"Just look at poor ol' Bruce Banner. Don't you want to buy him a hot cup o' coffee and a slice of rhubarb pie? Looks like our sad sack scientist has reached the bottom of the barrel. Must be the weight of that giant monster within pressing down on his soul." – *Bill Rosemann*

"He's a walking jet, head of his own multi-billion-dollar company, and the ladies love him. So why is the cool exec with the heart of steel down in the dumps? Hmmm...maybe he and Bruce Banner are on either side of one twisted coin." – *Bill Rosemann*

"After coming from the barbarian world of the Conan series, drawing a man in high-tech armor has been both challenging and interesting, but I have to say, I get the most enjoyment out of drawing Hulk. He's just raw power and aggression and it's easy to lose yourself in that." – *Cary Nord*

"Gah! Look at the cranium on this freak! That's right, Ultimate fans, this is the first appearance of the Leader in this neck of the woods. And speaking of necks, how does his hold up that giant gourd?" – *Bill Rosemann*

"The best moment of issue one is when the Hulk starts breaking loose in Tony's containment tank. It's one of those, 'Oh, crap!' moments." – *Cary Nord*

"Can artist Cary Nord draw a scary gray goliath or what? Okay, who went and made Bruce Banner angry?" – *Bill Rosemann*

ULTIMATE HUMAN

BEGINS JANUARY 2008

QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS!

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE COMIC CONVENTION EXPERIENCE??

"I walked into a room by mistake and DeForest Kelley was there, waiting to make an appearance. This was, of course, before he died. I guess it would have been more memorable if it had been after..."

- MARC GUGGENHEIM – Writer
(Amazing Spider-Man, Wolverine, Marvel Comics Presents)

"Well, I was mistaken for Jill Thompson once. That was pretty memorable. Admittedly it was in Spain, and the guy who was doing the mistaking had no idea that Jill was a female name. So it's less damning than it sounds, but still, you know... And having Larry Niven come up to me on the booth at SDCC to tell me he enjoyed reading Lucifer. That also sticks in my mind for some reason."

- MIKE CAREY – Writer
(X-Men, Ultimate Fantastic Four)

"I've had a few. I saw two guys get in a fight in front of me one time over who would win, Thor or Hulk. They were actually screaming at each other so my friend and I stopped to watch, because it was hilarious. Then they came to blows and it really wasn't very funny. We were about to break it up when the convention security came and intervened. Then it got funny again as they were screaming "THOR!" and "HULK!" at each other as they were dragged away. That would probably top my list."

- ROBERT KIRKMAN – Writer
(Marvel Zombies II, Ultimate X-Men)

"A San Diego Comic Con, where I was walking through a hotel lobby and came to a halt. Sitting there, not far away, were Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, close into each other, involved in a lengthy and what seemed friendly enough chat. I just stood there and watched these two greats for a few moments, wondering what it was they were discussing, and then went on my way."

- PETER DAVID – Writer
(X-Factor, She-Hulk)

"During my first U.S. Con (Megacon 2000) in Florida, I was standing in the urinals, doing what I went in there for, when I glanced over to my left side. Standing next to me was a Klingon; I turned and there was another to my right. "K'Plah", they both said. "Nice B'atleths," I replied. Of course only Star Trek fans will get the joke and I now have clearly revealed myself to be almost as sad. I did once contemplate buying a Star Trek uniform, but fortunately saw sense before that decision could haunt me for the rest of my life."

- BRYAN HITCH – Artist
(Ultimates, Fantastic Four)

"Drinking warm adult beverages and playing dominoes for hours with Peter "Chewbacca" Mayhew and Jeremy "Boba Fett" Bulloch at DragonCon years back."

- C.B. CEBULSKI – Writer
(Loners, Fairy Tales, Wolverine)

"I was so starstruck and just excited to see one of the biggest guys in comics, Rob Liefeld, a few years back. We had a very brief encounter and he was very nice and all. I was very nervous and awestruck when the goodbyes came and I called him "Todd."

- LEINIL YU – Artist
(New Avengers, Secret Invasion)

"The fateful day I ran into Joss Whedon at the San Diego Comic Con, right as news of Grant Morrison leaving X-Men hit the airwaves."

- JOE QUESADA – Marvel Editor-in-Chief, Artist
(Amazing Spider-Man)

NOW YOU KNOW!

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